

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for data transfer between a host system (210), a database (214, 215), and a
2 terminal server (225, 226), the terminal server (225, 226) having a location, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving at a host system (210), terminal server identification from a terminal server (225,
5 226);

6 querying a database (214, 215) to obtain service data associated with the location based on
7 the terminal server identification; and

8 automatically sending the location specific service data from the host system (210) to the
9 terminal server (225, 226).

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the database (214, 215) includes a first record that
2 associates the terminal server identification with the location, and the step of querying the
3 database (214, 215) includes a step of determining the location based on the terminal server
4 identification data from the first record.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the database (214, 215) further includes a record
2 that associates the location with service data that is specific to the location, and the step of
3 querying the database (214, 215) further comprises the step of determining the location
4 specific service data based on the determined location.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a data connection between the terminal server (225, 226) and a client
3 computer;

4 receiving the location specific service data at the terminal server (225, 226); and

5 forwarding the location specific service data from the terminal server (225, 226) to the
6 client computer.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of establishing a data connection is carried
2 out prior to the step of receiving the terminal server identification.

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2 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of establishing a data connection further

3 comprises the step of receiving a dial-up modem connection from a client computer.
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2 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal server identification comprises a
3 network address associated with the terminal server (225, 226).

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of receiving the terminal server
2 identification further comprises the step of receiving a data packet from the terminal server (225,
3 226), the data packet including the terminal server (225, 226) network address.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the data packet includes request data received at
2 the terminal server (225, 226) from the client computer, the request data identifying an
3 information service.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of querying the database (214, 215)
2 further comprises querying based on the terminal server identification and the request data; and
3 the location specific service data obtained by the query of the database (214, 215) is associated
4 with both the terminal server identification data and with the service identified by the request
5 data.

1 11. A host system (210) comprising:
2 a database (214, 215) including a record associating a terminal server identification
3 with service data specific to a location;
4 an interface to exchange data with a terminal server (225, 226) situated at a location via
5 a communications link; and
6 a processor configured to receive the terminal server identification from the data
7 interface, to query the database (214, 215) for location specific service data associated with the
8 terminal server identification, and to send the location specific service data obtained by the
9 query to the datainterface for transmission to the terminal server (225, 226).

1 12. The host system (210) of claim 11 wherein:
2 the terminal server identification comprises a network address associated with the
3 terminal server (225, 226); and

4 the interface includes packet processing circuitry to receive a data packet from the
5 terminal server (225, 226) and extract the terminal server identification from a header region of
6 the data packet.

1 13. The host system (210) of claim 12 wherein the network address comprises an
2 internet protocol address.

1 14. The host system (210) of claim 11 wherein the database (214, 215) includes a
2 disk storage medium comprising a plurality of records associating terminal server
3 identifications with locations and a plurality of records associating locations with service data.

1 15. The server of claim 14 further comprising a software storage media coupled to the
2 processor, the media storing instructions to configure the processor to query the database (214,
3 215), instructions to retrieve locations associated with terminal server identifications and
4 instructions to query the database (214, 215) to retrieve service data associated with locations.

1 16. A computer program residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising
2 instructions for causing a computer to:
3 receive terminal server identification from a terminal server (225, 226);
4 query a database (214, 215) to obtain location specific service data associated with the
5 terminal server identification; and
6 send the location specific service data to the terminal server (225, 226).

1 17. The program apparatus of claim 16 wherein the instructions to query the database
2 (214, 215) comprise instructions to query the database (214, 215) to determine a location based
3 on the received terminal server identification.
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- 13 -

1 18. The program apparatus of claim 16 wherein the terminal server identification
2 comprises a network address associated with the terminal server (225, 226).

1 19. The program apparatus of claim 16 wherein the instructions to receive the
2 terminal server identification comprises instructions to receive a data packet from the terminal
3 server (225, 226), the data packet including the terminal server network address.

1 20. The program apparatus of claim 19 wherein the data packet further comprises
2 request data received at the terminal server (225, 226) from a client computer, the request data
3 identifying a service.

1 21. The program apparatus of claim 20 wherein:
2 the instructions to query the database (214, 215) comprise instructions to query the
3 database (214, 215) based on the terminal server identification and the request data; and the
4 location specific service data obtained by the query is associated with both the terminal server
5 identification and with the service identified by the request data.